(Raemakers & Kleukers, 1999. De sneeuwspringer *Boreus hyemalis* in Nederland (Mecoptera: Boreidae). *Nederlandse Faunistiche Mededelingen* **8**: 1-10). If *Boreus* obtains its food by extra-intestinal digestion, as suggested by Struebing (1958. Schneeinsekten. *Neue Brehm-Bucherei* **220**: 1-47), the lengthy periods with the mandibles working to no apparent effect could represent the excretion of digestive fluids and subsequent absorption of dissolved leaf cell contents. Such damage would not be visible at x40. But for the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak, which resulted in walking in Snowdonia to be banned, I would have attempted to obtain more *Boreus* and investigate the matter further.

Lastly, information on the species of moss utilised by *Boreus* is not quite so sparse as Plant (*op. cit.*) suggests. Withycombe (1921) mentions larvae being found in *Mnium hornum*, *Dicranella heteromalla* and *Bryum atropurpureum* (= *bicolor*), the first being the preferred moss in Epping Forest, Essex. Struebing (1958) mentions *Mnium* spp. and *Polytrichum piliferum* being utilised in Germany.

I am very grateful to Dr Raemakers for suggesting the explanation for my observations and making this note worth publishing, and for supplying copies of the papers quoted. — JOHN BRATTON, 18 New Street, Menai Bridge, Anglesey LL59 5HN. (E-mail: J.Bratton@ccw.gov.uk).

Megapenthes lugens Redt. (Co.: Elateridae) bred from elm: a belated Windsor record, and further notes

Windsor Forest appears to be the only place in Britain where this scarce click-beetle has occurred on several occasions during the past century. My first find there was in the Great Park: two ♀♀ in elm 5.iii.1938 (Allen, 1966, *Ent. Rec.* **78**: 19). All others known to me were in the Highstanding Hill area of the Forest, where a few collectors have met with an example or two, and one, P. Cook, several (hawthorn blossom, 1971). It was there, only a short way in from the road, in a piece of decaying elm log, that I found a larva (31.x.1971) which, though quite young, was readily identified later as that of *M. lugens* by the details of the caudal extremity. It fed up and produced a male adult on 19.vii.72. I am unaware of previous British breeding records.

The above serves to confirm elm as a (the?) primary host-tree of this beetle, in Britain at all events; it may be expected to become rarer than ever as a result of the ravages of Dutch elm disease. Of other trees that may be used, beech is much the likeliest – occasional adults having been found on (not in) beech in Windsor Forest. I know of no evidence for oak as a host-tree in Britain. I gather that elm was the source of the colony formerly existing at Highgate, north London, where the Jansons took specimens during more than one season, some (I believe) from hawthorn blossom – a favourite resort of the beetle. I have a pair from there dated 27.ii.1866 (♂) and 1865 (♀). Fowler (1890, *Col. Brit. Isl.*, **4**: 94) has a record "Stockwell, Surrey (Montague)"; this is in South London, and I once read that the source was an old or dead elm in a corner of Montague's garden.– A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.